

BIENNIAL REPORT
of the
WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION
July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1970

IMPACT TRENDS

WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK - 499 Acres: memorializes Revolutionary War Site where General George Washington crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night, 1776. Buildings and points of historical and educational interest, together with picnic and other recreational facilities. Located in heart of Bucks County, the most rapidly growing County in the Commonwealth.

ATTENDANCE - 4,202,000, an increase of 8 percent over previous biennium. Visitors from 50 states and 120 foreign countries.

SCHOOL TOURS - Increased to 110,625 students in 2,008 tours during this biennium to this educational park. Through letters dealing with the available social study and science teachers' resources, the Park Commission continues to advocate that all Pennsylvania schools participate in educational tours to this Park. Copy of typical school communication attached.

RECREATION - Continues at a gratifying rate with picnic tables and the five pavilions often filled to capacity. Over 2 million visits to the Park in this biennium were made primarily for recreation. Included were trips to Bowman's Mill Tower, hiking, Scout camping and Camporees and ice skating in the winter. Many organizations schedule reunions and picnics from Spring to late Autumn.

MEMORIAL BUILDING - Exact copy of famed painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", is on display in the auditorium. Narration and music accompanies viewing by a half a million visitors, including over 50,000 students from nearly 1,000 schools. Historical exhibit in Lobby. The Washington Crossing Library of the American Revolution is located here. Its material provides opportunity for research and study.

OLD FERRY INN - Reported 82,000 visits this biennium. Included in 352 school tours involving over 18,000 students. Primary historic attraction in area of Embarkation was scene of great activity during Crossing in 1776. First floor restored and furnished with antique pieces. Used as social center. Snack bar.

THOMPSON-NEELY HOUSE - "House of Decision" where vital conferences were held before the Crossing by Washington and his staff, including General Lord Stirling, Lieutenant James Monroe and others. Furnished authentically and staffed by hostesses in costume. Attracted 80,000 visits each year. Included in 568 educational tours with 25,400 students to this historic house.

WILDFLOWER PRESERVE HEADQUARTERS - 117,000 visits to this 100 acre tract during this biennium. School tours increasing, 200 tours and 14,000 students. guided tours, natural history lessons, teacher's workshop, plant identification and propagation lessons under direction of Park Botanist. Seasonal exhibits. Penn's Woods, 14 acre tract, devoted to native memorial trees. Dedication ceremonies yearly.

NATURE EDUCATION CENTER- Programs were discontinued after May, 1969 when the director of this volunteer organization moved to the Grand Bahamas. Visits now limited to pre-arranged nature walks. Had 25,000 visits this biennium.

PROGRAM CHANGES

THE WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION - Organized in 1964 as a non-profit organization "to aid in promoting the educational and inspirational aspects of Washington Crossing State Park, and in preserving its rich heritage of historical landmarks", the Foundation has accomplished much during the biennium of July 1, 1968 and June 30, 1970. The 28-minute sound-color film, "Washington Crossing the Delaware" continues to be in great demand to schools and civic organizations. It has been shown in almost all states, in Viet Nam and in France.

The Albert M. Hawkes Award for a Patriotic Essay has brought yearly entries of 2,000 essays from students in 200 schools in 35 states.

A new Scholarship Award in honor of Ann Hawkes Hutton was established in 1969 in recognition of the years of dedicated service given to educational and historical projects on the national level, state-wide and at Washington Crossing State Park by Mrs. Hutton, through a special contribution by a Foundation Trustee.

More than 215,000 Leutze Reproduction Folders have been distributed, as well as color transparencies of the painting and tapes of the narration to schools requesting them.

In addition to the film, scholarship award, essay contest and other educational projects in the Park, the Foundation has received more than \$96,000, bringing the total contributions to the Park since its organization to more than \$1,000,000.

CROSSING REENACTMENTS - Conducted on Christmas afternoon each year, featuring the only known replica of a 40 foot Durham Boat carrying up to 30 men in Continental uniform, including members of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line. Appropriate procession and ceremony precedes the crossing. Upwards of 8,000 spectators. Reception in Old Ferry Inn follows. Wide newspaper, radio and television news coverage. Documentary film, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", shown to three capacity audiences in the Memorial Building after the Crossing.

INTERESTING EVENTS - The event generating the longest sustained interest was the painting of the copy of Leutze's, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", in the Memorial Building beginning October, 1969 until its installation in January, 1970.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Memorial Building was observed on September 19, 1969. Secretary Maurice L. Goddard was the principal speaker, addressing the audience on "The Facets of Freedom". A copy of the program is attached.

Washington's Birthday was marked by showings of the documentary film in the Memorial Building Auditorium. Capacity audience totalling over 6,000 had the opportunity to view this highly acclaimed production. The Thompson-Neely House staff served ginger bread baked in the hearth to over 4,000 visitors during the biennium to celebrate Washington's Birthday.

Other outstanding events were State and Regional planning meetings for the Bicentennial Celebration - 1976; the visit of Lord and Lady Howe. Lord Howe is a direct descendant of British General William Howe; Freedoms Foundation

Annual Pilgrimages; Memorial services at the Soldiers' Graves each May; Easter Sunrise Service atop Bowman's Hill; a visitation of blind scouts from the Overbrook School for the Blind. Scout Camporees in the Valley of Concentration with up to 1,000 campers are increasing. There were numerous other planned events for all ages.

WILDFLOWER PRESERVE - Attendance showed a marked 44% increase over the previous biennium. The educational programs in this part of Washington Crossing State Park also showed a significant improvement in usage as well as quality of programs. Guided tours for youth and adult groups increased by 4800 to 13,800. Programs for the exceptional child and nursery and kindergarten children were added. The Federated Garden Clubs of Pennsylvania granted an award of merit to the Preserve for its work in training school teachers.

Twenty-five institutions received assistance by correspondence and consultation in setting up their own preserves and programs. Additionally, 119 separate work-training programs were provided for girl and boy scout groups.

Plantings were extended by installation of (9) nine special habitat areas, a display garden at Preserve Headquarters, the Sinkler observation area just outside the Headquarters auditorium and by refurbishing the sphagnum bog.

Physically the Preserve was improved by permanent bank revetment on the azalea and bluebell trails and by improvements to the parking lot at the Preserve Headquarters. The Preserve staff has nearly completed a reference library and herbarium.

Highlight of this period was celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Preserve founding with a symposium, "Conservation in Action". The main speaker was Honorable Maurice W. Goddard, Secretary, Department of Forests and Waters. His subject was "Positive Uses of the Past".

WASHINGTON CROSSING LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - The Associates have added many titles to the Library. These have been especially useful in the work of the Library and are of interest to the thousands of visitors who come to the Memorial Building. The collection of books in the Library is now larger than at any time in its history. The number of persons using the library facilities for research is showing a gratifying increase. The Library has been responsible for important exhibits in the cases in the Library and in the Foyer of the Memorial Building. These include letters by Emanuel Leutze, a textured flag by the DAR and wood carvings for the use of blind visitors and a collection of original Bradshaw etchings. The Associates continue to direct all activities for the benefit of the Park.

FLAGS - Donated again this biennium by the Patriotic Order Sons of America are appreciated by the Park Commission.

PLANTINGS - Near Point of Embarkation were added to this biennium by the Bucks County Chapter, DAR.

FURTHER RESTORATION - OLD FERRY INN - This project, originally in capital budget, with a 2 year completion period, was transferred to the 1969-70 operational budget as a contracted repair item to be completed within the fiscal year. After delays due to appropriation and architectural design problems, there was insufficient time to award a contract. Preliminary architectural plans were completed. The project will be rescheduled for next year.

NEW REST ROOM - LOWER PARK - Completed in April, 1969 with the financial assistance of the Washington Crossing Foundation, as reported in the last biennium.

LIGHTNING PROTECTION - Installation completed on major park buildings during this biennium. Thompson-Neely Barn destroyed by fire caused by lightning near the end of the last biennium has been rebuilt and has lightning protection.

SANITARY SEWAGE DISPOSAL - Project has been held up pending the appropriation of additional funds to original \$80,000 by a supplementary project in 1971-72. A location for the disposal plant in the Lower Park was selected. Cost for project is expected to be nearly \$300,000 allowing for escalation. The completion of this system will correct many disposal problems in the Lower Park which are becoming increasingly acute.

CULVERT - On road to Soldiers' Graves was destroyed on April 2, 1970 by heavy overflow from the canal. A temporary repair was made with the assistance of the Canal organization. This will not be adequate if high water occurs again. The Bureau of Engineering made a preliminary survey and estimates that the cost of replacing the culvert with an adequate structure will be \$60,000. A solution to this problem will be necessary during the coming biennial.

WATER SUPPLY - Project recommendations listed in the last biennium have not been acted on because of budgeting problems. Chlorination of wells is being done and there have been no problems relating to contamination.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

THE PRESENT PARK COMMISSION has had no personnel additional during this biennium. The vacancy caused by Commissioner Parke M. Wetherill's death in July, 1968 has not been filled. Many improvements were planned and carried out in addition to those already mentioned.

THE MERCHANDISING COMMITTEE of the Park Commission continues to supervise the sale of all souvenir and other merchandise within the Park in cooperation with the Washington Crossing Foundation.

PROMOTION OF THE PARK is concentrated on by the Park Commission through all available media. News releases numbered 120 in addition to magazine features and television coverage of the Christmas Reenactment. Large quantities of park literature are distributed at many locations in the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

PARK OPERATIONS are supervised by E. Wilmer Fisher assisted by Park Foreman, Charles P. Mackey, Jr., who was hired in May, 1969 and by Oliver J. Stark, Park Botanist. An average of 34 employees carried out Park activities.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

FINANCIAL CHANGES

OPERATING BUDGET

Last Biennium - \$355,364

This Biennium - \$511,936 (Included \$54,516 for
Old Ferry Inn Restoration - Previously part
of Capital Budget.)

FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Restoration Completion - Old Ferry Inn
2. Reconstruction of Culvert - Soldiers' Graves
3. Well and Water System - Bowman's Mill Section
4. Needed Durham Boat Exhibition Pavilion
5. Restoration - Thompson-Neely Barn and Grist Mill
6. New Rest Rooms and rehabilitation of 2 existing facilities
7. Additional Park Areas
8. Taylor House Improvements
9. New Building for Motor Pool - to include a new Rest Room
10. Reconstruction and relocation of Park roads

These are all considered to be essential to the development of the Park and to keep pace with increasing public interest and usage. Planning beyond 1974 includes acquisition and development of land to connect the two sections and its development to make one Park, more roads and more parking facilities, and restoration of Old Copper Mine.

NO ADMISSIONS are charged at any location in the Park which is open to the public every day in the year.

THE WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION notes with gratification, the continued increase in public interest during the past two years. The Commission, with the help of the Park Staff, the Washington Crossing Foundation, and other dedicated groups and individuals, will cooperate to develop the Park to its full potential -- as one of the two leading historical parks in the country.



Social Studies and Science Teachers' Resources

Washington Crossing State Park
Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania 18977

Dear Administrator:

The Washington Crossing Park Commission invites you and your staff to use the services and facilities available at Washington Crossing State Park in your Social Studies and Science programs for all grades, K-12. Realia and exhibits on display at the actual historic sites provide a vivid living experience to enrich the learning activities of the classroom in such study units as Colonial Life, The War of Independence, or The Delaware River. Valuable pupil involvement in Science can also result when Natural History, Soil Conservation, Animals the Colonists Knew, Trees, etc., are studied at a place where pupils can participate actively.

The following list briefly describes our facilities and services made available through the Department of Forests and Waters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

MEMORIAL BUILDING - Route 32, just north of Route 532. Exhibition of an exact copy of the famed painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", with accompanying narration and music, shown every half hour. Exhibits, memorabilia, documents, souvenirs*. Daily - 9:00-5:00.

WASHINGTON CROSSING LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - In Memorial Building. Examination of rare documents by prior arrangement with supervisor on duty.

POINT OF EMBARKATION - North of Memorial Building. Marked by historic monument. Re-enactment of the crossing on Christmas Day afternoon by local volunteer groups.

VALLEY OF CONCENTRATION - West of Memorial Building. Assembly point for the Continental Army before the march on Trenton. Monument and memorial flagstaff at entrance to area.

OLD FERRY INN - Route 532 and the river. Restored site of McKonkey's Ferry. Authentic furnishings, souvenirs* and light refreshments*. Daily - 9:00-5:00.

DURHAM BOAT - Between Old Ferry Inn and Memorial Building. Replica of the boats used in the Crossing of the Delaware.

(OVER)

THOMPSON-NEELY HOUSE - "House of Decision." Route 32, three miles south of New Hope. Original colonial dwelling built in 1702 by John Pidcock, with two later additions. Restored and authentically furnished. Costumed guides and atmosphere of a colonial home. A meeting place for the Continental Army in planning the attack on Trenton. Souvenirs*. Weekdays - 10:00-5:00. Sundays - 1:00-5:00.

SOLDIERS' GRAVES - West bank of Delaware River near the Thompson-Neely House. Memorial esplanade at the grave site marking some of America's first unknown soldiers.

BOWMAN'S HILL TOWER - Above Pidcock Creek near Thompson-Neely House. Outlook commemorates sentry towers used by the Revolutionary Army. Commanding view of the Delaware Valley. Daily - 8:00-Sunset. Closed during bad weather.

BOWMAN'S HILL STATE WILDFLOWER PRESERVE - North of Bowman's Hill Tower.
By reservation: Natural History lessons, K-12, related to current classwork; Teacher's workshops and In-Service Institutes in Outdoor Education; Plant Identification and Plant Propagation classes; Guided tours.
Without reservations: Adult lectures; Adult Nature Hikes; Children's Nature Walks and Talks. Trails, exhibits. Daily - 9:00-5:00.

PAVILIONS, PICNIC TABLES, REST ROOMS - Throughout the Park. Reservations for pavilions.

Admission is free at all locations. For more detailed information about any of these contact the Park Office - 215-493-4076.

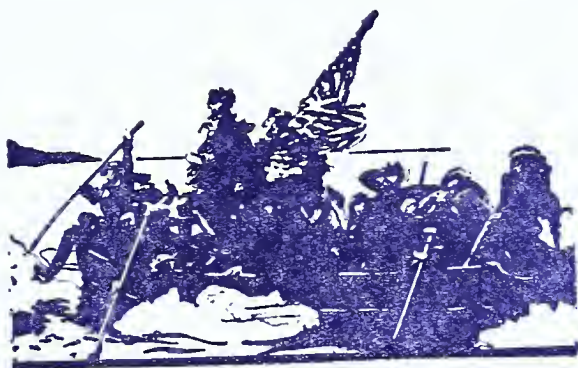
So that we can effectively and efficiently arrange for your visit to Washington Crossing State Park, please mail the enclosed reservation form 30 days in advance of your expected trip. It will be a pleasure to serve you and we look forward to meeting the groups from your school.

Very truly yours,



Ann Hawkes Hutton
Chairman
Washington Crossing Park Commission

* Proceeds from sales support the Educational Programs of the Washington Crossing Foundation.



PROGRAM

Tenth Anniversary

Washington Crossing Memorial Building

WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PENNSYLVANIA

September 19, 1969

WASHINGTON CROSSING MEMORIAL BUILDING

Erected by

THE GENERAL STATE AUTHORITY

of the

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEDICATED — September 19th, 1959

The building of modified colonial architecture, was designed in the form of a Keystone, thus honoring Pennsylvania as the Keystone State.

The Memorial is approximately 101 feet wide by 92 feet in depth. It is built of native Pennsylvania fieldstone similar in color and character to that used in the historic Old Ferry Inn nearby.

The auditorium has a seating capacity of 383. Its stage occupies the base of the "Keystone". Here is exhibited America's favorite historical painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware" by Emanuel Leutze on loan from The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The east room of the building houses the Washington Crossing Library of the American Revolution, containing rare volumes, original papers and letters. The foyer is devoted to displays of Americana and souvenir items sold by the Washington Crossing Foundation for the benefit of the educational programs of Washington Crossing State Park.

Around the perimeter of the 25 by 97 foot Lagoon are spaced fourteen flagpoles and flags of the thirteen original states and the Betsy Ross flag. The flags were presented by the Patriotic Order, Sons of America.

WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION

Mrs. Ann Hawkes Hutton, *Chairman*

Eugene C. Fish, Esq., *Secretary*

Mr. Jay M. Biery

Dr. Paul Phillips

Mrs. Margaret M. Clark

Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Slater

Paul V. Forster, Esq.

Mrs. Sarah S. H. Uzzell

Mrs. Adrienne K. Franklin

WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION

The Honorable Albert W. Hawkes, *Honorary Chairman*

Mrs. Ann Hawkes Hutton, *Chairman of the Board*

Eugene C. Fish, Esq., *President*

Maj. Gen. Henry S. Murphey USA (Ret.), *Vice President*

Mrs. E. Wilmer Fisher, *Secretary*

Dr. George W. Shaffer, *Treasurer*

The Honorable Maurice K. Goddard, *Honorary Trustee*

Trustees

Mrs. Frederick Banks

Mr. Ben Hibbs

Mrs. William B. Camp

Mr. John Langdon Jones

Brig Gen. Eleanor Jane Carlin
USAF (Ret.)

Mr. Russell W. Knight

Capt. Samuel A. Newman

Mrs. Robert DeVecchi

USNR (Ret.)

Mr. John W. Finger

Adm. Felix B. Stump

USN (Ret.)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19,

Invocation

PAUL V. FORSTER, ESQ.
WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION

Introductions

MRS. ADRIENNE K. FRANKLIN, JR.
WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION

Welcome

MRS. ANN HAWKES HUTTON, *Chairman*
WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION

Greetings

EUGENE C. FISH, ESQ., *President*
WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION

Remarks

THE HONORABLE ALBERT W. HAWKES,
Honorary Chairman
WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION

ram

9, 1969 — 2:30 P.M.

Address

THE HONORABLE MAURICE K. GODDARD,
SECRETARY — DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
“THE FACETS OF FREEDOM”

Benediction

MRS. WILLIAM B. CAMP. *Trustee*
WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION
THE LORD'S PRAYER, BY MALLOTE

INTERMISSION

Motion Picture

“WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE”

National Anthem

SPECIAL EXHIBITS IN FOYER
WASHINGTON CROSSING MEMORIAL BUILDING
EMANUEL LEUTZE LETTERS AND
MEMORABILIA
EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS
IN THE PROMOTION
OF THE WASHINGTON CROSSING STORY
SPONSORED By
WASHINGTON CROSSING LIBRARY
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE STAR-SPANGLED

BANNER

*O say can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming.
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
O say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?*

"I remember reading in my youth, a small book 'The Life of George Washington' and of his struggles none fixed itself on my mind so indelibly as the crossing of the Delaware preceding the battle of Trenton. I remember that these great struggles were made for some object. I am exceedingly anxious that the object they fought for—liberty, and the Union and Constitution they formed — shall be perpetual."

—*Abraham Lincoln*

"The Patriot cause seemed lost. But Washington remained alert and undaunted and fortune rewarded him . . . at the most critical moment of the War."

—*Winston Churchill*

"Elementary American history needs to be taught once more with the same kind of fervor and pride in country that it once was . . . I wish every schoolchild and every teacher could see the original of the famous painting of "Washington Crossing the Delaware"—which is now housed in a fine new building at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania—and hear the inspiring recorded narrative of that exploit that is run off there many times each day."

—*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"The courageous decision of one man, George Washington, to undertake the crossing of the Delaware on that critical night in 1776 made it possible for succeeding generations to make free and independent decisions under our American system of free men protected by constitutional government."

—*Albert W. Hawkes*